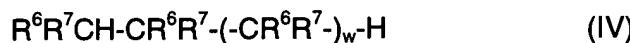


## IN THE CLAIMS

Kindly amend the claims to read as follows.

1. (cancelled).
2. (previously presented): A process according to claim 8, wherein component A is a sulfonate of the formula (I) where at least one of all the R<sup>2</sup> radicals present is -SO<sub>3</sub><sup>⊖</sup>M<sup>⊕</sup>.
3. (previously presented): A process according to claim 8, wherein component A is a sulfonate of the formula (IV)



where w is from 1 to 3, one of the R<sup>6</sup> radicals is an unsubstituted phenyl radical and all the other R<sup>6</sup> radicals are hydrogen, and one of the R<sup>7</sup> radicals is -SO<sub>3</sub><sup>⊖</sup>M<sup>⊕</sup> and all the other R<sup>7</sup> radicals are hydrogen.

4. (previously presented): A process according to claim 8, wherein component A is sodium cumenesulfonate or potassium cumenesulfonate.

5. (previously presented): A process according to claim 8, wherein component A is a dihydric or trihydric alcohol of 4 to 8 carbon atoms.

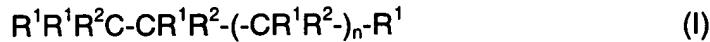
6. (cancelled).

7. (currently amended): A process according to claim 8, wherein the composition includes, per 100 parts by weight of water (component D): the following amounts of components A, B, C, E, F:

5 to 35 parts by weight of component A,  
10 to 40 parts by weight of component B,  
3 to 30 parts by weight of component C,  
0 to 30 parts by weight of component E, and  
0 to 20 parts by weight of component F.

8. (currently amended): A process for the pretreatment of fiber materials in the form of textile sheets, wovens or knits, said process being performed prior to manufacture of enduse articles from the sheets said materials, which comprises treating the fiber materials with a composition including at least the components A, B, C and D,

where component A is either a sulfonate of the formula (I)



where n is from 0 to 8, each R<sup>1</sup> is independently of the others hydrogen, an alkyl radical of 1 to 4 carbon atoms, an unsubstituted phenyl radical or a phenyl radical substituted by a radical of the formula -SO<sub>3</sub><sup>⊖</sup>M<sup>⊕</sup>, and each R<sup>2</sup> is independently of the others R<sup>1</sup> or a radical of the formula -SO<sub>3</sub><sup>⊖</sup>M<sup>⊕</sup>, subject to the proviso that component A contains at least one radical of the formula -SO<sub>3</sub><sup>⊖</sup>M<sup>⊕</sup> and M is Na, K or NH<sub>4</sub>,

or where component A is a polyhydric aliphatic alcohol of 2 to 12 carbon atoms,

component B is an ethoxylated alcohol of the formula (II) or a mixture of such alcohols



where r is from 1 to 8,

component C is an alkoxylate of the formula (III) or a mixture of such alkoxylates



where t is from 4 to 30, 20 to 80% of all the Z groups present are -CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>-O- and 80 to 20% of all the Z groups present are -CHR<sup>4</sup>-CHR<sup>5</sup>-O-, where in each case one of R<sup>4</sup> and R<sup>5</sup> is hydrogen and the other is CH<sub>3</sub>, R<sup>3</sup> in both component B and component C is a linear or branched alkyl radical of 4 to 20 carbon atoms and 50 to 100% of all the X's present are hydrogen and 0 to 50% of all the X's present are a methyl, ethyl or phenyl radical,

and component D is water,

and optionally also a component E and/or a component F or a mixture thereof,  
component E being a magnesium salt or a calcium salt and component F being an alkali metal salt or ammonium salt of a sulfuric monoester of the formula (V)



where  $R^8$  is a linear or branched alkyl radical of 4 to 12 carbon atoms,  
~~whereby good primary wettability without unacceptable foaming and good rewettability are imparted to the pretreated textile fiber materials.~~

9. (original): A process according to claim 8, wherein the fiber materials are 70 to 100% by weight cotton.

10. (cancelled).

11. (cancelled).

12. (previously presented): A process according to claim 8, which is carried out prior to a dyeing step.

13. (previously presented): A process according to claim 8, wherein the composition includes, per 100 parts by weight of water (component D), the following amounts of components A, B, C, E, F:

10 to 25 parts by weight of component A,  
15 to 35 parts by weight of component B,  
5 to 25 parts by weight of component C,  
2 to 20 parts by weight of component E, and  
2 to 10 parts by weight of component F.